Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Proposals for inclusion in the
Report of the Preparatory Committee on its second session

Submitted by Canada

II SUBSTANTIVE AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES

A. Substantive issues considered by the Preparatory Committee at its second session

1. Pursuant to the Chairman's Statement contained in document NPT/CONF.2000/PC.I/31, time was allocated at the second session for the discussion on and consideration of three subject areas:

(a) Security assurances

The States Parties reaffirmed that, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, further steps should be considered to assure non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the Treaty against the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons. These steps could take the form of an internationally legally binding instrument.

The States Parties agreed to keep under review, and to allocate specific time for discussions on and the consideration of, any proposals on security assurances at upcoming PrepCom sessions with a view to making recommendations to the 2000 Review Conference on this issue.

(b) The Resolution on the Middle East

The States Parties, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States, reaffirmed their commitment "to extend their cooperation and to exert utmost efforts with a view to ensuring the establishment by regional parties of a Middle East zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems" as set forth in the 'Resolution on the Middle East' adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference.

The States Parties agreed to keep under review, and to allocate specific time for discussions on and the consideration of, any proposals on the 'Resolution on the Middle East' at upcoming PrepCom sessions with a view to making recommendations to the 2000 Review Conference on this issue.

(c) FMCT

The States Parties present at the PrepCom reaffirmed the value of an effective FMCT, in accordance with the 'Principles and Objectives on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament'. They strongly urged an immediate commencement to and early conclusion of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on that basis.

2. The Preparatory Committee, in conformity with its task to consider principles, objectives and ways in order to promote the full implementation of the Treaty, also considered other issues during this session:

(a) Non-proliferation

The Committee noted the continuing risks to international peace and security by nuclear proliferation and re-emphasized the urgency and importance of achieving the universality of the Treaty, particularly by the accession to the Treaty at the earliest possible date of those States possessing nuclear capabilities. States Parties renewed their commitments to make determined efforts to achieve this goal. They also supported proposals to establish internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones in parts of the world where they do not exist, such as the Middle East and South Asia, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the regions concerned as a measure towards the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and to realizing the objectives of nuclear disarmament.

(b) Nuclear disarmament

During its second session, the Committee continued its consideration of different concepts, approaches, and elements concerning nuclear disarmament. The States Parties reaffirmed that their undertakings with regard to nuclear disarmament as set out in the Treaty should be fulfilled with determination. The nuclear-weapon States reaffirmed their commitment as stated in Article VI of the Treaty, to pursue in good faith negotiations on effective measures related to nuclear disarmament. A range of views and proposals were put forward concerning this high priority aspect of the NPT; those are reflected or incorporated in the [Chairman's Working Paper contained in Annex I to this Report]. The Committee, recommended that these considerations be continued at its next session in 1999.

The Committee also focused on one particularly timely dimension of this issue and noted during its discussions concerning the implementation of Article VI of the Treaty, that the START process, as a key element in systematic and progressive efforts toward the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons, must be pursued energetically and diligently. States Parties participating in the Committee urged the United States of America and the Russian Federation to take all steps necessary to approve and implement as quickly as possible START II and associated agreements and undertakings. These States Parties also noted the importance of the 'Joint Statement on Parameters on Future Reductions in Nuclear Forces' signed by Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin on March 21, 1997, which set out parameters for negotiations on a START III agreement. They equally urged the two States Parties concerned to act as soon as possible on the implementation of that Joint Statement. Finally, States Parties

nuclear weapon reductions and transparency measures should be expanded at an appropriate point in the near future to include all five nuclear-weapon States Parties.

(c) CTBT

The Committee, noting the progress made by the CTBT Provisional Technical Secretariat in Vienna in implementing various provisions of that Treaty, as well as noting the continuing uncertainty as to the Treaty's prospects for entry-into-force, expressed the view that Article XIV, paragraph 2, of the Treaty should be fully and effectively implemented.

(d) Safeguards

The Committee noted the support of States Parties present for early conclusion by all States of Additional Protocols to their respective Safeguards Agreements, and urged that the maximum possible number of such additional protocols be concluded by the 2000 NPT Review Conference.

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